



**FY26 Cultural Immigrant Initiative:  
Creative Tableaux Documentation  
Designation DN-07187  
Reporting period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**

Across the above-mentioned reporting period, Teatro Grattacielo utilized funding from NYC's Cultural Immigrant Initiative to support the following activities:

**Performance Internships** in Teatro Grattacielo's Summer 2025 season for singers from **Frank Sinatra School of the Arts** – July 2025

**Internship Roundtable/Workshop** with **AAFE** high school students (Asian American for Equality) – December 2025

**Opera Workshops** at **Sunset Ridge Senior Community** – winter and spring 2026

**Costume Design and Fabrication Workshops** at the **High School for Fashion Industries** – Mondays at 4p across the full Spring 2026 semester

**Audition Workshops and Performance Internships** at **Frank Sinatra School of the Arts** – workshops/auditions in March 2026, leading to casting and preparations for paid performance internships across Spring/Summer 2026

**Assistant Stage Manager, Assistant Costume Designer, Hair/Makeup Assistant, and Production Assistant Positions** – interviews and hiring process across Spring 2026, ahead of Summer 2026 season, for paid, work-based learning internships across a variety of departments and design areas

*These activities were supported, in part, by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council through the FY26 Cultural Immigrant Initiative, Designation DN-07187, designated by Council Member Erik Bottcher.*



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**Performance Internships in Teatro Grattacielo's Summer 2025 season  
for singers from Frank Sinatra School of the Arts**

In **July 2025**, Teatro Grattacielo welcomed several young singers from **Frank Sinatra School of the Arts** to join their production of Pietro Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz* as performance interns. These singers were part of the "off-stage chorus," filling a crucial role in the opera's musical texture. They gained experience in a true professional production, learning about rehearsal processes and norms, experiencing a very brief production cycle (under three weeks!), tackling and conquering challenging music, and performing live in a tricky setting (off-stage, away from the conductor, creating atmospheric music – a new experience for all of these singers.) They were fairly compensated for their time and work, helping to set the expectation for them that arts work should be properly remunerated. Performances took place on July 19 & 20, 2026, at La MaMa Shares' Downstairs Theater in Lower Manhattan.



*Backstage at rehearsal: some of Creative Tableaux's Summer 2025 FSSA Performance Interns, with Teatro Grattacielo's General and Artistic Director, Stefanos Koroneos, courtesy of TG.*



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**Internship Roundtable/Workshop with AAFE high school students  
(Asian American for Equality)**

On **December 5th, 2025**, Teatro Grattacielo's Creative Tableaux industry professionals and mentors met with students from **AAFE** in Flushing, Queens, to discuss arts-based careers, possibilities across artistic fields for early-stage creatives, internships options, structures, and application processes, all with the goal of helping students identify and pursue potential areas of professional interest in the arts in general and opera in particular. It was a lively conversation, with time taken for each students to discuss their experiences, strengths, and questions. Students who had not previously considered the possibility of studies or careers in the arts were particularly excited to learn about positions and programs that would match their talents and aspirations.



*Post-session shot of some of the AAFE participants and CT mentors at their workshop at AAFE in Queens, courtesy of AAFE.*



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### Opera Workshops at Sunset Ridge Senior Community – three group sessions across Winter and Spring 2026

Throughout the winter and spring, Creative Tableaux mentors and industry professionals visited **Sunset Ridge Senior Community** in Sunset Ridge, Brooklyn, to facilitate several workshops designed to immerse the Sunset Ridge residents in the world of opera:

- **December 2025:** Understanding Opera Through Storytelling (an introduction to opera)
- **February 2026:** The Audition, Rehearsal, and Performance Process (understanding the musical process of creating and producing an opera)
- **May 2026:** Color and Design in Opera (exploring the creative processes by which set, lighting, props, projections, costumes, and other elements of design are used in the storytelling of opera)

Residents were fascinated by the process and particularly intrigued by the interaction of all the elements required for the successful production of an opera, across the entirety of the process! The workshops culminated with plans for the residents to attend Grattacielo's Summer 2026 productions (free of charge) and experience "live and in person" the art that they'd been exploring all year.

*A handful of participants with  
TG facilitators in May 2026,  
courtesy of Sunset Ridge.*





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**Costume Design and Fabrication Workshops at the High School for Fashion Industries – Mondays at 4p, Spring 2026 semester**

Across the winter and spring of 2026, young designers and sewists from **The High School for Fashion Industries** met weekly on Mondays at 4p to learn about the design process for costumes (including specific considerations for operatic productions), ideate and create designs for the Summer 2026 season, and fabricate those designs, tailored to the singers who would ultimately wear them! The young designers were particularly intrigued by the relationships between design and storytelling, the practicalities of constructing and tailoring the designs, and the collaborative nature of the process – working with designers, directors, and the singers themselves to create the final product. For many students, these sessions led to "work-based learning" internships with Grattacielo in Summer 2026...

*HSFI students hard at work with directors, designers, and mentors across spring 2026*





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**Audition Workshops and Performance Internships at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts – auditions and workshops in March 2026, with preparations for internships across Spring/Summer 2026**

In early **March 2026**, Creative Tableaux returned to **Frank Sinatra School of the Arts** to hold a series of audition workshops, giving students the chance to sing for industry professionals, offering guidance and mentorship around "the expectations in the room," culminating in the extension of multiple offers to students for paid, work-based learning Performance Intern positions in Teatro Grattacielo's Summer and Fall 2026 performances.

Preparations then began for those internships across **Spring** and **early Summer 2026**, as students were cast in age- and voice-appropriate roles, guided in the preparation of their music, and introduced to the rehearsal and performance conventions of the professional musical world (including coaching on preparation, professionalism, and industry standards). The students excelled in their preparation and are on track for an incredible summer and fall of internships!



*Workshops and auditions in early March at FSSA in Queens with FSSA students and Creative Tableaux industry professionals – photos courtesy of Creative Tableaux.*



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**Assistant Stage Manager, Assistant Costume Designer, Hair/Makeup Assistant, and Production Assistant Positions** – interviews and hiring process for paid, work-based learning internships across departments and design areas

Across **Spring 2026**, Creative Tableaux's industry professionals and mentors held interviews and hired students from the **High School for Fashion Industries** and **Frank Sinatra School of the Arts** for fairly-paid work-based learning internships across multiple areas of operatic production:

- Production Assistants (involved in all aspects of production)
- Assistant Costume Designers (costume fabrication, alteration, preparation, maintenance)
- Hair & Makeup Assistants (preparation, basic makeup application/hairdressing, cleanup)
- Assistant Stage Managers (involved across full rehearsal and production process)

Across all of these areas, a total of **thirteen students** were hired and began preparations for Grattacielo's Summer 2026 season!



*Students at the High School for Fashion Industries in Chelsea preparing for Summer 2026 internships.*